11/18/68

Dear Lou & Mae

Two of you have spoken similarly to me, each asking that I say nothing to anyone else.

Pursuant to your requests, using my own approach, in addition to other things, I have written the enclosed letter. Read it carefully and its intent will become clear to you.

I thinkk the recipient will understand that if there is an error and it has the anticipated potential, the responsibility will be his - publicly - and that I may see to it. Yet it does not say this.

Meanwhile, I have phoned Bud's home to see if there has been any change in his plans. It is he who asked me to go to N.O. with him for twow weeks beginning 12/1. He will pay the expenses. I cannot. Although other work on which I am engaged requires that I stay here and do it - and I regard this work as urgent - I am prepared to do this. If necessary, I wxill go to Dallas first, although I now do not plan to go there this soon. Bud is expected home 11/26. Once I am in Dallas, except when he has work he must do, I can depend on Penn for transportation and a pad. At worst, my only significant additional expenses will be a car.

I have already phoned Paul Hoch and explained what we will be asking of him on the literature distribution and Johann. He knows who I want to work on this with him. He will be preparing for this chore, as will the others. As soon as possible, he will be making copies of all the data we have in this area, including the FBI reports and the Secret Service memo showing how the FBI had them turned off immediately. I use these things in a partly-written book, so I ask you to use them as you must for investigations but not publicly, in publicity. You should have all of them in your hands by the end of the week, depending on the speed of the mail. From them youx also will get the names I gave Lou. Keep them together and when I am again there I will go over them with you and tell you what I have already checked into (Lou has a memo on some) and what, in addition, we have since learned. We are continuing work in this area, on the handbill and on 544. We are, on the latter, close to a definitive answer. There is much that relates less directly on which I am also working. I will make all of it available to you with the understanding that you will keep it to yourselves, for I have the book largely written and do not wantx the edge taken off. Premature publicity will also turn sources off. I think it can be a very significant book that can open new doors for us. Vince agrees, knowing some of the content.

Paul has obtained the ONI and FPCC files on microfilm. Let me know if you have a reader available and I will bring them with me. I may want to be able to show the ONI file to Guy Johnson, who supplied part of it. I have had a long, pleasant chat with him, so I know some of what he sent, through channels and through Hubert (to whom I have also spoken).

I have already asked the Archives for the Benavides-Tarsikesx reports and any others relevant, for the Garner Exibit 1, with which there was funny business that escaped you (see enclosed copy of my letter to Archives, which I sent after phoning, to try and expedite), for everything on Rush, including copies of each print and film clip, for copies of the first or earlier Jesse ~~Garner affidavit(s), for~~ the Kasck reports of investigations prior to the Garner affidavit(s), for the Kasck reports of investigations prior to the

assassination, etc. For those of you interested in this, I refer to "Oswald In New Orleans". There was no disassociation affidavit from Kaack.

I have placed several other phone calls on this so far today. In both cases, my man was not in. One is out of town until otmorrow, when I will phone him again. The other should call me back today. If he does, I will add to this letter.

Since writing the above I have spoken to both of you. I need not send both of you copies of the letter I referred to. I am satisfied Wade will try, as he said. The problem is that he did not recognize the faces of the policemen. I held off phoning him a second time, when he was not in the first. I asked his secretary to show him the picture and then have him call me back, which he did. Further, an earlier check, not by an official like Wade but by one of us, got the response from the police that the records no longer exist. I wish it were possible for Jim to understand that this might, in fact, have been a booby-trap constructed after his accusations against Bradley, that if he walks into it it may well be he can never recover from its effects. If it is not an deliberate trap, once he makes more charges there will be no chance of any success to the work I have already started - that for no good reason he will be ruining it. At some point I hope your office will learn how to cooperate, for had I been told of what impends before I left for Dallas I could have let other things go and worked personally on that one.

Moreover, something I forgot until just now, over my objection, joined in by Jones Harris and Dick Sprague, Trent Gough released the entire series of pictures in a press conference in New York, on the occasion of my speech under the auspicies of his group, and laid an egg. It is not just that he did lay an egg. If Jim now tries to do anything with them, he will be ridiculed as a copycat from coast to coast, retailing the evidence that cannot be credited and was not. More, he will - and rightly - be severely and quite credibly attacked for not checking it out himself when it was within his capacity and clearly his responsibility to do so. He will thus have done to himself what his enemies could not do to him. He will not only have damaged himself, he will have ruined all of us and what is even less excuseable, he will have destroyed the faith of all the so many good people who look to him for responsible investigation, not irresponsible publicity-seeking. I have no objection to your reading this paragraph to him or otherwise conveying it. He will have entirely alienated himself from what is left of the critical community, save, perhaps, for those lickspittles who only hurt him in any event, who seek from him what they can get.

I've got to get to the post office.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg